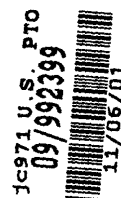


EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL 756 225 281 US

DATE OF DEPOSIT 11/01/01



Our File No. 9281-4205
Client Reference No. CK US00028

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#3 / 103
3-19-03
Roth

In re Application of:)
Akihiro Nakano et al.)
Serial No. To Be Assigned)
Filing Date: Herewith)
For: Plasma Processing Apparatus Including a)
Plurality of Plasma Processing Units Having)
Reduced Variation)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

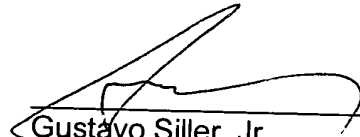
Pursuant to the obligation under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in conformance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.99, Applicants hereby submit reference A1 listed on the attached form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner. A copy of the reference is enclosed herewith.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56(b). Further, Applicants reserve the right to contest this reference as prior art against the present application, and Applicants do not believe that the disclosure of this reference, even if finally determined to be prior art, anticipates Applicants' invention or that this reference makes Applicants' invention obvious.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to this material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review the entire disclosure of this document and make it of record.

Respectfully submitted,


Gustavo Siller, Jr.
Registration No. 32,305
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200

FORM PTO-1449 LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (use several sheets if necessary)	SERIAL NO.	CASE NO.
	To be Assigned	9281-4205
	FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT
	Herewith	To Be Assigned
APPLICANTS: Akihiro Nakano et al.		

971 U.S. 9
 09/992398
 11/06/01

REFERENCE DESIGNATION				U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS		
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	A1	5,474,648	12/1995	Patrick et al.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.